

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1417

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### As Reported by House Committee On: Health Care & Wellness

**Title:** An act relating to evaluating military training and experience toward meeting licensing requirements in medical professions.

**Brief Description:** Concerning evaluating military training and experience toward meeting licensing requirements in medical professions.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Rolfes, McCune, Appleton, Kirby, Zeiger, Seaquist, Kelley, Finn, Haigh, Dammeier, Angel, Jinkins, Stanford, Smith and Shea.

#### **Brief History:**

##### **Committee Activity:**

Health Care & Wellness: 1/31/11, 2/10/11 [DPS].

#### **Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Requires the development of a process to evaluate military training and experience that may be applied toward meeting training and educational requirements for certain health professions.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Jinkins, Vice Chair; Schmick, Ranking Minority Member; Hinkle, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Clibborn, Green, Harris, Kelley, Moeller and Van De Wege.

**Staff:** Jim Morishima (786-7191).

#### **Background:**

The Department of Health (DOH) and various boards and commissions regulate a variety of health professions. Each profession is subject to its own unique credentialing standards such as education, clinical training, and the passage of examinations.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

When an applicant with military experience applies for a credential, the DOH and the boards and commissions may, depending on the circumstances, count military training and experience toward the requirements for credentialing. Whether military training will be counted toward the credentialing requirements depends on a variety of factors, including the requirements for credentialing, the military training and experience at issue, and the statutory authority of the DOH, board, or commission with respect to the profession.

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**Summary of Substitute Bill:**

The appropriate disciplining authority must develop a process to evaluate military training and experience that may be applied toward meeting the training and educational requirements for the following professions:

- dental hygienists;
- denturists;
- dispensing opticians;
- ocularists;
- pharmacy assistants;
- physician assistants;
- osteopathic physician assistants;
- emergency medical technicians;
- nurses;
- radiologic technologists;
- nursing assistants;
- respiratory care practitioners;
- health care assistants;
- surgical technologists;
- dental assistants;
- optometrists;
- expanded function dental auxiliaries;
- physical therapists; and
- physical therapy assistants.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:**

The substitute bill adds denturists, optometrists, osteopathic physician assistants, physical therapists, and physical therapy assistants to the list of professions for whom the process must be developed. The substitute bill also makes technical changes to ensure that the entity developing the process is the disciplining authority for the profession.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) This bill addresses a problem experienced by a lot of military personnel. Employment can often be difficult for veterans because of differences in licensing requirements, despite excellent military training in these professions. Veterans are often well qualified for these jobs with experience that is better than could be obtained in school. This bill asks the Department of Health to take a look at the process for licensing veterans. There are opportunities for colleges and universities to recognize military experience. Optometrists should be included in this legislation.

(In support with concerns) Osteopathic physician assistants should be included in this legislation.

(With concerns) Dental technician training in the military is not appropriate for dental hygienists, but is more appropriate for a separate dental assistant track.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** (In support) Representative Rolfes, prime sponsor; Mark San Souci, United States Department of Defense; Bob Rudolph, Veterans and Military Families for Progress; Gary Brackett, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber; and Brad Tower, Optometric Physicians of Washington.

(In support with concerns) Jim Richards, Washington Osteopathic Medical Association.

(With concerns) Melissa Johnson, Washington State Dental Hygienists Association.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.